

GCV GREEN NETWORK PARTNERSHIP

INTEGRATED HABITAT NETWORK MODELLING DISSEMINATION

1. INTRODUCTION

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) Green Network Partnership is a catalyst for the creation of a transformational, high quality Green Network across the Glasgow metropolitan area. The role of the Partnership is to act strategically to stimulate and facilitate the planning, delivery and sustainable long term management of the Green Network.

The aim is to create a step change in the scale and quality of the Green Network to improve the region's competitiveness for investment, enhance quality of life, promote biodiversity and more sustainable use of natural resources, and encourage healthy lifestyles.

The GCV Green Network Partnership brings together the eight local authorities which comprise the Glasgow metropolitan region with five major government agencies that promote and deliver on the environmental, social, health and economic agendas throughout the GCV area, namely Communities Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Four themes provide the framework for project development: stronger communities; enterprise development; health improvement; and biodiversity and the environment.

2. BACKGROUND

The Integrated Habitat Network Modelling project is a strategic initiative being led by the Biodiversity & Environment Group of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) Green Network Partnership.

The purpose of the project is to create a strategic framework for the development of functioning habitat networks across the whole of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area, focusing on three key habitat types:

- unimproved grassland;
- floodplain management wetlands;
- woodland habitats (using a range of woodland types).

Each habitat has been looked at in terms of:

- functional connectivity;
- relationship to designated sites;
- balancing priorities/resolving conservation conflicts;
- planning issues; and
- potential for targeting of agri-environmental incentives.

The technical element of the project is now nearing completion and consideration is being given on how to disseminate the work to end users in local authorities, NGOs and others. This project will seek to demonstrate the uses and benefits of Integrated Habitat Network modelling in decision making to planners and greenspace and conservation managers.

3. CONTEXT

Experience elsewhere in Scotland indicates that habitat network plans can help to inform wider land-use planning process, contributing information and ideas to discussions during the detailed master planning of growth areas in both the Structure and Local Plans.

Habitat network plans contribute information relating to the location, specification and types of habitat needed to complement and mitigate development impact, and protect and enhance biodiversity. These issues are critical for the GCV Green Network policy of the GCV Structure Plan to be successfully implemented.

Integrated Habitat Network modelling and analysis has the potential to be an extremely powerful tool in delivering the aims and objectives of National Planning Policy Guidance 14 (NPPG 14) (The Scottish Executive Development Department, 1999), Planning and Open Space (PAN65) (Scottish Executive, 2004), Enhancing Urban Green Space (National Audit Office, 2006) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (Scotland, 2004). However, its value will only be realised if those who can benefit from it, understand it and know how to use it.

4. PROJECT AIM

The aim of the project is to demonstrate to local authority planners and land managers, government agencies and others the positive impact Integrated Habitat Network modelling and analysis can have for the planning process and

the allocation of resources and to promote its use as an everyday tool for decision makers to support their work.

5. METHODOLOGY

The following is a suggested methodology and consultants are invited to propose alternatives where they feel it would enhance the project outcomes.

1. Collaborate with Forest Research, the consultant undertaking the Integrated Habitat Network (IHN) project, to develop an understanding of the IHN model and to plan and prepare IHN dissemination workshops.
2. Deliver IHN dissemination workshops to:
 - Planning Sections within the eight local authorities which comprise the GCV.
 - Greenspace/Biodiversity Sections within each of the eight local authorities.
 - NGOs and charities e.g. SWT, RSPB.
 - government agencies e.g. SNH, Forestry Commission Scotland

Note: Attendees at the workshops do not have to gain an understanding of the processes which underpin habitat networking. Rather they should leave with a clear understanding of the practical benefits it can provide them and confidence in its legitimacy.

3. Produce a report detailing feedback from the workshops, problems encountered and lessons learned.

Note: The local authority workshops should be held in the eight respective council buildings across the GCV. The additional workshop will be held in the Green Network Partnership offices in Glasgow city centre.

6. PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project outputs will be:

1. An interim report detailing the proposed content and execution of the workshops;
2. Development of presentation materials for the workshops;
3. Delivery of IHN dissemination workshops; and
4. A short report detailing feedback and lessons learned from the workshops

7. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Lead Officer

The lead contact for the project will be:

Ally Corbett
Development Officer
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership
Lower Ground Floor, 125 West Regent Street,
Glasgow, G2 2SA
T: 0141 229 7749
M: 07796 322 181
E: alastair.corbett@gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk

Steering Group

A steering group will oversee delivery of the project and will comprise:

- GCV Green Network Partnership
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Local Authority representation

8. TIMESCALE

The project must be completed by the end of May 2008.

Specific interim outputs and milestones will be agreed with the successful contractor.

9. BUDGET

The cost of the delivering the project must not exceed a maximum budget of £8000 (ex VAT). This budget includes provision for both fees and expenses.

Consultants are invited to propose a timetable for staged payments based on satisfactory delivery of identified outputs.

10. RESPONDING TO BRIEF

Completed tenders should be returned to Ally Corbett at the above address by:

5pm, Tuesday 12th February 2008

Consultants seeking to carry out the work should supply the following:

- Detailed, justified proposals for meeting the aims of the study;
- Details of proposed personnel, their relevant skills and experience and details of any similar work the contactor has undertaken.
- A work programme identifying the timescale and completion date for each phase of the work.
- Detailed costings for carrying out the work detailed in this Brief which are clearly itemised and indicate day rates and numbers of days allocated for individual personnel, travel, subsistence, overheads, project management and any other anticipated costs. VAT should be shown separately (please indicate your VAT status).
- Contractors should also include costs for attendance at an inception meeting and one project meeting to be held in Glasgow and travel to Forest Research in Roslin, Midlothian.

GCV Green Network reserves the right to accept a tender other than the lowest or not to accept any tender at all and will not be held liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of the tenders